places in the country during the year 1987 and what is the percentage of rise in their smuggling into the country as compared to seizure of narcotics during the previous year;

(b) whether in view of the continuous rise in the smuggling of narcotics into the country Government have made any critical review of the working of the various measures taken by Government and the Act in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the deficiencies, if any, identified by Government and the manner in which these are proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No precise value of the drugs seized can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like quality of the drugs, place of origin, etc. It is difficult to quantify the extent of smuggling or the percentage thereof. However, from the following Table, it would be observed that while there is slightly an upward trend of smuggling in respect of heroin, the other drugs have shown a declining trend:

S. No.	Name of durg	Quantity sized in 1986	Quantity sized in 1987 (provisional)
		Kgs.	Kgs.
1	Heroin	2,621	2,780
2	Hashish (Charas)	18,909	14,792
3	Ganja	60,620	53.307
4	Opium	8.789	2,859
5	Morphine	207	90*
			70/ injections

(b) and (c) Government have, from time to time, been launching various aggressive counter-measures to curb drug smuggling. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action. No deficiencies, as such, have been noticed in the working of these measures. However, whenever and whatever any deficiency is noticed the same will be set right.

Income tax refund cases held up in Kanpur and Lucknow

801. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioners of Income-tax in Kanpur and Lucknow have held up refund cases of diffierent assessees including some companies located in the above named town for years together;

(b) whether in some case the Department has lost before the Income Tax Tribunal and no appeals are pending before the High Court;

(c) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(d) what further action is being proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The Commissioners of Income-tax, Kanpur (Central) and Lucknow have reported that no refund has been held up for years together in any case assessed in their jurisdiction.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Functioning of Tobacco Board

802. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board was set up more than nine years ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Board has since not made any significant contribution in increasing the per hectare yield and in improving the quality of the tobacco produced;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result, on the one hand the return to the cultivators is unremunerative and on the other hand the country is not able to compete in the world market;

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to revamp the Tobacco Board; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to increase the amount for developmental activities at the grower's level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The Tobacco Board was set-up in the year 1976.

(b) Tobacco Board is charged mainly with the responsibility of production, regulation, promotion of grading at farm level and export promotion etc. There is also a Dte. of Tobacco Development, Madras under the Ministry of Agriculture. Research in respect of tobacco crop is with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). State Governments are also taking interest in the work. The Tobacco Board is also implementing a scheme "Improvement of yield and quality of VFC tobacco in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka" from 1986-87 with an outlay of about Rs. 10 lakhs per annum.

Fumigation of seed beds for revising nematode free seedling in order to get better quality and higher yields; raising nursery in order to supply pure and healthy seedlings to the farmers for higher yields; and production of pure seed for supply to farmers to maintain generic characteristic of the plants are the other schemes taken up by the Tobacco Board. These schemes have been implemented with the Cooperation of Central Tobacco Research Institute (under ICAR). Dte of Tobacco Development and M|s ITC Ltd.—ILTD. An inter agency committee has been constituted to work out details and oversee the implementation of these schemes.

(c) and (d) The auction system introduced for sale of VFC tobacco in Karnataka in 1984 and Andhra Pradesh in 1985 ensures remunerative prices to the tobacco growers. The tobacco growers have realised better prices during the auctions in previous years except in 1987 auctions when the growers could not get remunerative prices due to indifferent quality of tobacco and reduced export orders resulting in supply demand imbalance. Minimum Support Prices are fixed by the Government and whenever prices realised in the auctions fall below the Minimum Support Prices, he Tobacco Board purchases such tobacco from the growers at MSP.

(e) The Directorate of Tobacco Development, Madras supplies seeds and seedlings to the farmers for increasing production of tobacco crops and training to the farmers in the improved methods of cultivation of tobacco. The details of funds provided during 1986-87 and 1987-88 for